

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 19 and 23 are pending herein. Claim 19 is amended. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are cancelled. No new matter has been added by the amendment presented herein.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 19, as amended, raises no new issues which require further search or substantial consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as it places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better condition for appeal.

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 6-12, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 6-12, 17-18, and 20-22 have been cancelled. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-12, 17-18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is moot and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 23 and therefore includes at least the same elements as claim 23. In addition, since claim 19 now depends from claim 23, the rationale for the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is no longer applicable to claim 19. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-12, 17-20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,336,145 to Briscoe (Briscoe '145) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,536,297 to Loftin (Loftin '297). Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-12, 17-18, 20, and 22 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-12, 17-18, 20, and 22 is moot and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

As noted above, claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 23 and therefore includes at least the same elements as claim 23. Since claim 19 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 23, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

over Briscoe '145 in view of Loftin '297 has been overcome and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

2. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Briscoe '145 in view of Loftin '297 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,629,271 to Dobson. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 20, and 21 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

D. Allowable claims

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 23. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 23 and therefore includes at least the same elements as claim 23. In light of the amendment to claim 19, applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 23 and requests allowance of claim 19.

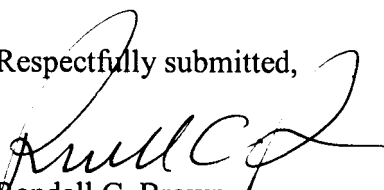
It is respectfully submitted that claims 23 and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

E. Conclusion

Claims 19 and 23 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney would expedite consideration of the claims, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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